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EIS000199

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6 MR. WALKER: Again I change hats. My name is  
7 Jamieson Walker. I'm reading a statement on behalf of Les  
8 Bradshaw, Department Manager, Nye County Department of Natural  
9 Resources and Federal Facilities. This is his oral statement.

1... 10 [ The Nye County nuclear waste repository project  
11 office has completed a preliminary review of the Draft EIS and  
12 found the document to be deficient in a number of key areas.

13 Because of these inadequacies, the Department of  
14 Energy must prepare a supplemental draft of the EIS further  
15 requirements of CFR 1502.9 so that Nye County, other agencies  
16 and the public can have the opportunity to review and comment  
17 on how the department addresses the deficiencies, inadequacies  
18 and the comment on the Draft EIS.

19 All too often Nye County has submitted formal  
20 com -- comments to a federal agency, only to see these comments  
21 disregarded in the agency's preparation of the final NEPA  
22 documentation.

1... 23 [ Given the significance of the proposed action and  
24 the serious deficiencies in the Draft EIS, the Department of  
25 Energy would be remiss if it did not prepare a supplemental

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1 draft for public review and comment.

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2                   | The Draft EIS presents an assessment of human  
3 health and safety that purports to meaningfully portray the  
4 risks associated with the repository.

5                   Unfortunately this assessment is based on an  
6 approach that is fraught with uncertainty and plagued by lack  
7 of data.

8                   Further, the results have been severely  
9 criticized by expert panels assembled specifically to evaluate  
10 validity -- the validity and results of the models used to  
11 predict risk.

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12                   | Nye County by virtue of its location,  
13 characteristics and overwhelming federal presence has been  
14 disproportionately impacted by past, present and continuing  
15 federal actions.

16                   Nye County must receive just equity offsets,  
17 mitigation and compensation from the United States to mitigate  
18 cumulative impacts of these past and present actions in the  
19 combination with the proposed repository.

20                   In the 1994 transmittal of quote the secretarial  
21 policy statement on the National Environmental Policy Act, or  
22 NEPA as it's commonly called, the Secretary of Energy stated:  
23 "Full" -- quote: "Full compliance with the letter and spirit  
24 of NEPA, our national charter for protection of the  
25 environment, is an essential priority for the Department of

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1 Energy consistent with our core values," end quote.

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2                   The Department of Energy's approach toward the  
3 evaluation of impacts in the Draft Yucca Mountain EIS is  
4 woefully lacking.

5                   The Draft EIS ignores the impact of many other  
6 federal actions with respect to federal land management, waste  
7 disposal, environmental and water policies.

8                   The result is a fragmented analysis -- fragmented  
9 analysis that does not meet with the letter or intent of NEPA.

10                   Substantive revisions of the EIS will be required  
11 before the Department of Energy will have met its own stated  
12 policy of full compliance with NEPA.

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13                   Finally, the Department of Energy will be holding  
14 public meetings at numerous locations in Nevada and the United  
15 States during the next few months. An additional public  
16 meeting must be held in Tonopah, the County Seat after Nye  
17 County.

18                   This meeting must be held after the last  
19 scheduled public meeting, but before the close of the comment  
20 period on the Draft EIS.

21                   By that time, the citizens of Nye County and my  
22 office will have had the time necessary to review and comment  
23 on the Draft EIS and provide the Department with a full set of  
24 oral comments.

25                   MR. LAWSON: Thank you, Mr. Walker.

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MS. BOOTH: Thank you.

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